

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As discussed with Examiner Parsley during a telephone interview on May 3, 2005, Independent Claims 128 and 246 have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the Japanese reference JP Patent No. 2000-41557. This reference has two (2) horizontal fishing rod holders in line with each other for holding a single fishing rod, whereas Independent Claims 128 and 246 have been amended to clearly recite that applicant's fishing rod holders extend upwardly, and are not in a horizontal plane like the Japanese reference.

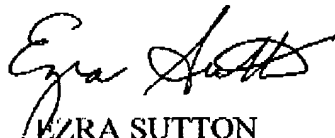
Additionally, applicant's fishing rod holder assembly has two or more fishing rod holders extending upwardly each for holding a separate fishing rod therein, whereas the Japanese reference (JP 41557) clearly shows its two horizontal fishing rod holders holding only a single fishing rod.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, the prior art references of TADAKI and HAWIE, even if combined, **do not teach or disclose** the claimed features of Amended Independent Claims 128 and 246 and the Claims which depend therefrom. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's Claims 128 to 135 and Claims 233 to 267 should be allowed based upon the allowable **Independent Claims 128 and 246.**

Respectfully submitted,

EZRA SUTTON, P.A.


EZRA SUTTON
Reg. No. 25,770

Plaza 9, 900 Route 9
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095
(732) 634-3520

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